[Translation]

Misuse of Godowns by Black Marketeers

2227. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some godowns of Food Corporation of India in the country are being misused for black marketing of essential items;

(b) whether the Government have conducted raids on these godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to avoid such recurrence in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to (a) above, questions do not arise.

[English]

Action Plan for the Production of Cotton

2228. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan or worked out strategies to improve the production and productivity of cotton in the country and provided remunerative price to the cotton growers during 1997-98 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharshtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The funding Pattern under the scheme is at present on 75 :25 sharing basis between the Government of India and implementing States. The basic objective of the scheme is to increase productivity vis-a-vis, production of all types of cotton and the assistance under the scheme is provided for following components :

(i) Production of breeder seed

(ii) Production of foundation and certified seeds

(iii) Distribution of certified seeds;

(iv) Demonstration on :

(a) Production Technology

(b) Pheromone Traps

(c) NPV

(v) Integrated Pest Management demonstration-cum-training (IPM)

(vi) Distribution of plant protection equipments ;

(vii) Supply of sprinkler sets ;

(viii) Farmers training ;

(ix) Staff at Headquarters ; and

(x) Contingency.

The production target of cotton for the year 1997-98 in the country has been fixed at 148 lakh bales of 170 kg. each. For the implementation of the programme, plan allocation of Rs. 1660.76 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

The Govt. have announced MSP for two basic varieties of 7-414/ H-777 and H-4 at Rs. 1330 and Rs. 1530 per quintal respectively for 1997-98 season which is higher by Rs. 150 per qtl. over the MSP fixed for the previous year.

Coral Reefs

2229. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in the country where coral is found in abundance ;

(b) whether any damage is being done to the coral reefs;

(c) the prodedure of extracting the coral ;

(d) whether there is any control of the Government on its extraction ;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(f) the demand of coral in the country ; and

(g) the quantum of coral exported, if any, indicating the names of the importing countries along with the quantum of imports in each country separately ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.